

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion. Claims 2 and 4-6 are pending. Claim 2 is amended to include the features of Claims 1 and 7. Claims 1, 3, and 7 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Applicant requests entry of this response, as the response places the application in clear condition for allowance. Specifically, claims have been rewritten in accordance with an indication of allowable subject matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Flanner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,653,734, herein "Flanner"). Claim 7 was recited as reciting allowable subject matter.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claim 7 recites allowable subject matter.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1 and 3 as anticipated by Flanner, as Claims 1 and 3 are canceled, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is moot.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 2, 4, 5, and 6 as anticipated by Flanner, Applicant respectfully submits that as Claim 2 is rewritten in independent form and incorporates all the features of now-canceled Claim 7, Claim 2 patentably distinguishes over Flanner for at least the same reasons as were indicated regarding now-canceled Claim 7.

Claims 4-6 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent Claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 4-6 patentably distinguish over Flanner for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 2.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

condition for formal allowance. A notice of allowance for Claims 2 and 4-6 is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Vinh deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, Examiner Vinh is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.


Respectfully submitted,

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